

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/732,786

Art Unit 1764
Q62216

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 18, and 22-25 are pending in the application.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takemura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,733,977 [hereinafter "Takemura"]). Claims 1-2, 5-7, 9-12 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sullivan (U.S. Patent No. 6,270,429). Claims 3, 4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sullivan in view of Ueshima et al. (U.S. Patent 5,502,095 [hereinafter "Ueshima"]). Claims 9 and 26-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takemura. Claims 21-25 and 32-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sullivan.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the previous teleconferences, including the discussion on December 9, 2005. As discussed, the art fails to teach or suggest the combination of features found in amended claim 1, including the further defined cover portion. In particular, the cover portion of claim 1 is recited as being an "outer most" cover portion. As was discussed and acknowledged previously by the Examiner, the applied art including Sullivan fails to teach or suggest this feature, in combination with the other features recited in claim 1. Because the amendment to claim 1 is deemed to place the case in condition for allowance and because the Examiner has considered this feature, a further search and/or consideration should not be required.

Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn, as well as the rejection of claims dependent upon claim 1. The rejections of claims 16 and 17, and their dependent claims, are

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deemed moot due to these claims being canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the canceled claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

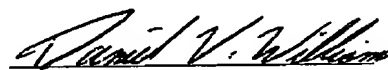
Respectfully submitted,

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